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# To the Frinton-on-Sea Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1905.

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GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Third Annual Report for your consideration, I have pleasure in informing you that the general health of our District has been extremely satisfactory during the past year.

Though it will be noted that the death rate has been higher than in former years, I shall be able to show that it arises from causes in no way associated with our hygienic surroundings. It will be a source of satisfaction to you to know that our zymotic case rate is very low for the year. With the exception of a few cases of Chicken Pox in the first half of the year—most of which were imported,—we have had practically speaking a clean record.

It is gratifying to record the fact that during the season, including the months of July, August, and September, when so many families are resident in our midst, there was no single case of infectious illness.

### General Review.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out during the year.

Eton Road has been properly sewered, and surface water gullies have been fixed. With the completion of this, the total length of sewers now in use in Frinton amounts to upwards of nine miles.

Twenty new buildings have been erected; and it is satisfactory to know that the Council have adopted a new series of bye-laws dealing with New Streets and Buildings.

The drains in several houses have been relaid where they were found to be defective, and intercepting traps fixed where found to be deficient.

There has been a great improvement in watering the thoroughfares, thereby minimising the dust nuisance.

### Scavenging.

The scavenging of the District has been satisfactorily carried out during the year. The streets are clean, and have been well kept. The cleanly condition of our thoroughfares has been commented on by visitors.

### Drainage.

The drainage of the district is efficient.

### Water Supply.

There has been an abundant supply of water and of good quality.

Though several complaints were made to me in the early part of the season, the cause was only a temporary one; judged from samples taken, the purity of the supply is above suspicion.

It is well to point out that every householder should have the water cisterns thoroughly cleaned once a year at least; and it is further advisable that all cisterns in use for household purposes should be closely covered.

If more attention were paid to these important points there would be fewer unnecessary complaints made as to the water supply.

### Ventilating Columns.

With regard to these, complaints have again occurred this year, and the Council have heightened the columns to 30 feet. Four new ventilating columns (30 feet) have now been fixed, and it is to be hoped that all causes for complaint will soon cease to exist.

It may very well be asked whether it is not better to allow the escape of offensive gases into the open air, rather than run the risk of such gases being forced into dwelling houses.



### **Zymotic Diseases.**

The Zymotic case rate is extremely satisfactory ; there have been only 9 cases during the year. Of these seven were Chicken Pox—four of these were distinctly imported. One case of Enteric Fever was also imported, and there was one case of Erysipelas.

The Zymotic case rate is 8·5 per mille.

The Zymotic death rate : nil.

### **Vital Statistics.**

In dealing with this subject there is every reason to conclude that our locality is a healthy one ; as already shown there is practically no infectious illness in the district, and that most dreaded of diseases, Phthisis, is, locally, entirely absent.

Though the death rate is higher than that of former years, an analysis of the figures in no way imputes the rise to insanitary surroundings.

Thirteen deaths have occurred during the year. Two of these occurred in persons over 80 years of age ; three deaths occurred in persons of over 70 years. Five of these deaths occurred among visitors, thus reducing the number of deaths to eight, which is equivalent to a death rate of 7·6 per mille, and of these two were over the age of 80, which may be considered as arising from nature's causes.

Estimating the population at 950, the total death rate, including visitors, is 12·3 per mille : deducting visitors, 7·6 per mille.

Twenty births have been registered during the year, which gives the satisfactory birth rate of 21 per mille.

### **Climatology.**

Before concluding my report, I should like to refer briefly to the climatic conditions for the year.

Though the total sunshine has not been large, there have been long spells of continued bright sunshine ; one such period occurred during the months of April, May, and June, when for a period of 55 days bright sunshine was recorded without a break ; and again for the latter half of June, July, and part of August, there were 54 successive days with bright sunshine.

During the months of May and July sunshine was recorded every day.

In October there was only one sunless day, and during March, April, and August there were only two days in each without sunshine.

The sunniest month was May, when 256 hours were registered ; and August follows with 237 hours.

The total sunshine for the year amounted to 1602 hours 25 mins.

The total rainfall for the year amounted to 19·11 inches, which is rather larger than in the year 1904 when 17·48 inches were registered.

The wettest month of the year was June, when as much as 4·48 inches fell ; the driest month was July, only ·26 inches being collected.

The wettest day was June 5th, when 1·95 inches fell in 24 hours.

It will therefore be seen that Frinton possesses a climate which affords abundance of sunshine, and the rainfall is comparatively small.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. WM. GODFREY, M.D., M.R.C.S., M.O.H.

*January 26th, 1906.*

